

MB 6/17/96

**K-518**  
**Essex or Red Acres**  
**near Worton**  
**4th quarter 18th Century**

The single extant photograph of the house which once stood on Essex, portrays a three-bay, two-story brick dwelling with attached one-and-a-half-story wing. Built by Thomas Bowers in the late 18th century, little is known of its plan as it burned in 1916.

Thomas Bowers (1741-1784) was a member of the Quaker sect. Four years before his death he deeded 150 acres of Essex to his brother, John Bowers (1766-1820) (1). At the time of his death, John left a widow, Rosamund, and seven children. Of his real estate holdings, Essex was assigned to his daughter Mary Ann Bowers in 1840 (2).

In a deed dated 2 March 1880, Essex was transferred to George T. Williams (3) in whose family the farm remains today. According to Williams family tradition, George T. Williams (seated center in the photograph) had purchased the farm from his brother-in-law who had previously owned the farm but could no longer pay the taxes.

From the photograph, the house appears to have been similar to Worth's Folly and Duncan's Folly in form. Both of these houses had hall-parlor plans and similar chimney treatments, i.e. one chimney within the gable and the other partially protruding from the shared gable of the service wing.

Footnotes:

1. Land Records: Lib. TW 1, fol. 424.
2. Land Records: Lib. JNG 7, fol. 271.
3. Land Records: Lib. DCB 5, fol. 583.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. K-518

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Essex

and/or common Red Acres

## 2. Location

street & number 25367 Lamb's Meadow Road ☐ not for publication

city, town Worton ☐ vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Kent

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. & Mrs. Harry T. Williams

street & number 25367 Lamb's Meadow Road telephone no.: 410-778-1687

city, town Worton state and zip code Maryland 21678

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber MLM 2

street & number Cross Street folio 76

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. 518

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☒ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

One photo of the pre-1916 house which stood at Red Acres exists in the Williams family collection. The photograph shows a house which is similar to two other houses in the immediate vicinity. Worth's Folly and Duncan's Folly are similar in principal fenestration and general original form. All three had three bay facades, two story brick buildings, with one chimney inside the gable and the other on the exterior. Their service wings were  $1\frac{1}{2}$  storys tall, but the latter fenestration varied from house to house.

The photo shows a three bay long two story brick house with it's principal east facade laid in Flemish Bond. There is neither belt course nor water table and the window lintels are composed of a row of verticial header brick. First story windows have 9/9 sash with 2-panel shutters. Second story windows have 6/6 sash and louvered blinds. A flat-roof porch (late 19th C.) protects the central entrance which is shorter than the flanking windows.

Off the south gable is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$  story, three bay long, service wing. The southernmost window is higher than the other and resembles Worth's Folly fenestration. The building was either heavily white washed or stuccoed and white washed, since the only brick visible is near ground level. The single dormer on its roof allowed light and air to the inner attic chamber.

The house burned in 1916 or 1917 and was replaced by the large frame house standing on the farm today. The old structure stood approximately 50 feet southwest of the present house and faced east.

Nothing is known of the interior plan, although the two aforementioned similar buildings still retain hall-parlor plans

## 8. Significance

Survey No. 518

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 2nd half 18th C. **Builder/Architect** unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The site of Essex is significant because it is another example of late 18th Century vernacular architecture built by a member of the Quaker Sect, in all likelihood, by Thomas Bowers (1741–1784).

150 acres of Essex was conveyed to John Bowers, (1766–1822) in a deed recorded in 1800. The deed stated that it had been mortgaged two years before and the land was formerly the property of Thomas Bowers, brother of John. Both Bowers were sons of Thomas and Ann Bowers, according to Quaker Records.

When John Bowers died in 1820, he left a widow, Rosamond, and seven children. When the estate was settled, the Essex part of John's holdings were assigned to Mary Ann Bowers in 1840. According to Williams family tradition, the farm came into possession of the single brother of Matilda Porter Williams, the wife of George Thomas Williams. The brother was unable to make the farm pay its way and it was finally sold to George T. Williams in 1880, the gentleman seated in the old photograph in front of the house. The farm has descended thru three generations of the Williams family to the present day.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. 518

Kent County Land Records.  
Quarkerism on the Eastern Shore.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Bourne

organization Historical Society of Kent County

date July 1995

street & number P.O. Box 665

telephone (410) 778-3499

city or town Chestertown

state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

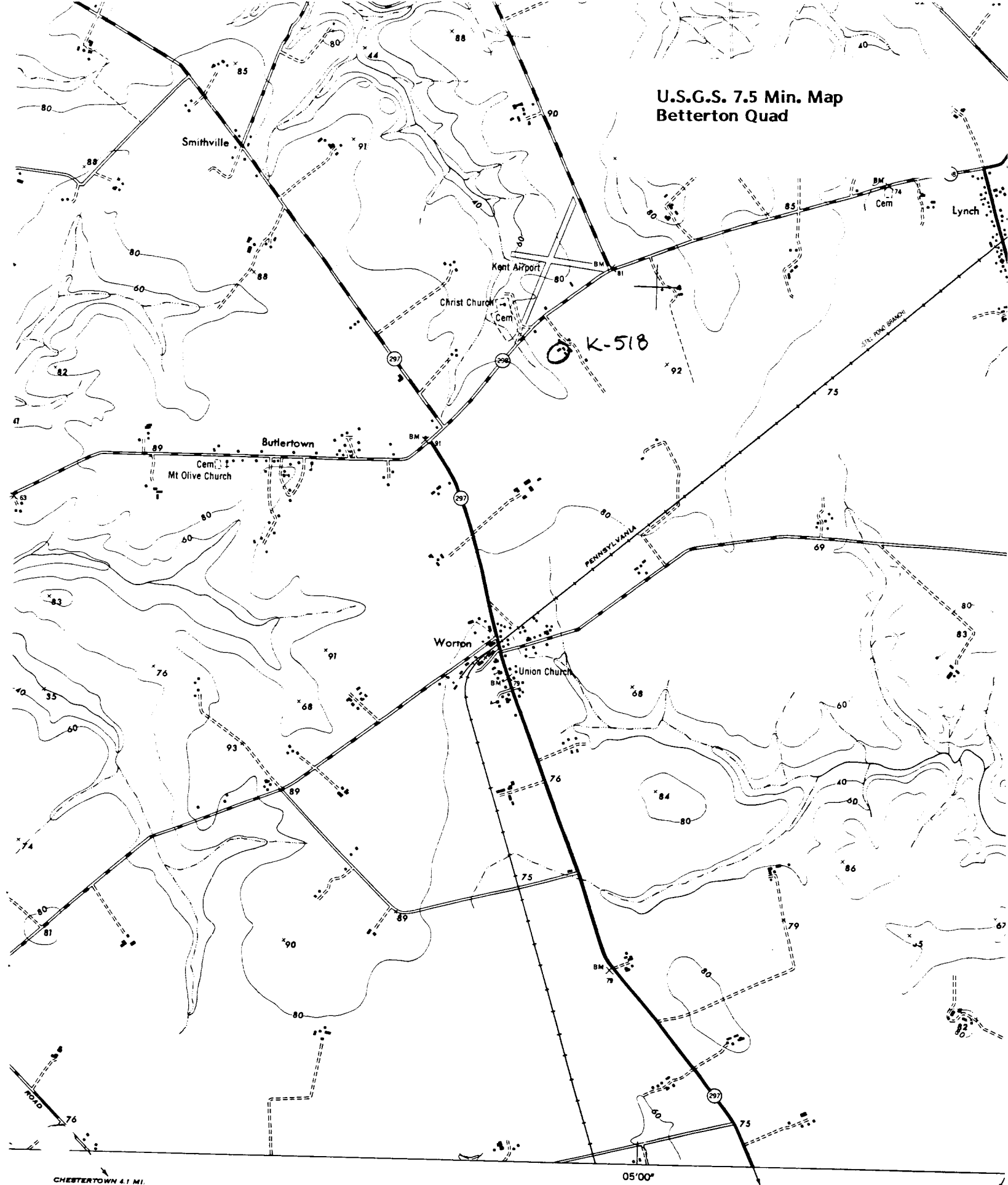
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
C-403 DWOD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21031-2023  
01-1000



U.S.G.S. 7.5 Min. Map  
Betterton Quad



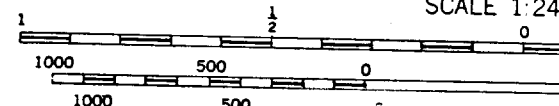
CHESTERTOWN 4.1 MI.

05°00'

CHESTERTOWN 3 MI.  
KINGSTON 3.7 MI.

CHESTERTOWN  
KINGSTON

SCALE 1:24



er the direction of the Chief of Engineers by the Army Map Service (AM), Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. Compiled in 1948 from Maryland, 1:31,680, USC&GS, sheet 5762 I SE, S Chart No. 572, 1947. Planimetric detail revised from aerial photography by photo-planimetric aerial photography May 1947. Horizontal and vertical control by USGS.



Essex K-518

Nr. Worton

Courtesy of Harry T. Williams

photo c. 1900